

Request to return of the remains of Russian Painter

3704. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the Reply to Unstarred Question 1189 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th November, 2000 and state whether Government have taken any final decision with regard to return of the remains of Svetoslov Roerich for reburial in St. Petersburg?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): A request has been received from the Government of the Russian Federation for the return of the remains of Svetoslav Roerich for reburial in St. Petersburg. The mortal remains of Svetoslav Roerich lie buried in the Roerich Estate in Bangalore. The Government of Karnataka acquired the estate belonging to the Roerichs in Bangalore on November 21, 1996 through an enactment. The constitutional validity of this act has been questioned and the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka has ordered that *status quo* be maintained in the matter. Matters pertaining to the Roerich Estate in Bangalore are *sub-judice*.

Setting up of a Canadian Consulate in Chandigarh

3705. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Canadian Government has sent any proposal to Government for setting up of a Canadian Consulate office in Chandigarh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) Yes, Sir. A request has been received from the Government of Canada for expansion of the Visa Collection Centre in Chandigarh into a full-fledged Consulate.

(b) Government of India had given permission in 1997 to open a

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Visa Collection Centre, as an extension of the Canadian High Commission in New Delhi. As the arrangement is presently working well, it was decided to continue with it for the time being.

Laying of Optic-Fibre Cable Network

3706. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Planning Commission Member, while speaking at the recent Nasscom-2001 Mega Summit, observed that there was need to get the States involved in providing right of way for telecom companies to lay optic-fibre cable network as it would ensure better bandwidth capacity; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to seek States' involvement in building up adequate bandwidth capacity through the optic-fibre network to boost up IT export growth rate in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) To encourage building up of adequate band-width capacity. State Governments are permitting liberally Right of Way to telecom operators to lay down the optic-fibre cable.

E-Governance Centres

3707. SHRI R. S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a Centre of E-Governance in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the service provided by the centre and its location;

(c) whether any proposal is under Government's consideration for setting up of such centres all over the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the financial aspects of E-Governance centres?